PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE **EXAMINING GROUP 2834**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masayuki KIKUSHIMA et al.

Application No.: 09/120,806

Filed: July 23, 1998

Group Art Unit:

2834

Examiner:

M. Budd

Docket No.:

101151

For:

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2000. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 15-22 and 30-37 are pending.

Consideration of these remarks is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the remarks: (a) place the application in condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed herein; and (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration.

The Office Action objects to the July 17 Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §132 as introducing new matter. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the July 17 amendment merely amends the specification and Figs. 1(b) and 11 for clarity, as requested by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. These features are at least shown in originally filed Figs. 1(b) and 11. That is,

